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ACR 140 – COLLEGE AND CAREER PATHWAYS MONTH

PURPOSE

Designates June as College and Career Pathways Month.

SUMMARY

California benefits greatly from College and Career Pathways. Accordingly, it is appropriate to recognize June as College and Career Pathways Month.

BACKGROUND

According to the University of California Riverside School Improvement Research Group, California pupils who participate in regional occupational centers and programs in high school improve their grade point average at a higher rate than comparison pupils, earn higher wages than comparison group peers, are more successful in securing job raises and promotions than comparison group peers, and enroll in postsecondary educational institutions at a similar rate to their comparison group peers

Statewide, nearly one-third of all California high school students drop out of school and another third graduate unprepared to succeed in college or the workplace. The need to develop a well trained workforce is a

key challenge for the state. There is an urgent need to diversify and expand the state's economy especially in rural communities like the Inland Empire where the traditional reliance on tourism and agricultural industries cannot sustain the anticipated increase in population.

College and career pathways are the modern version of career technical education, preparing today's students for tomorrow's dynamic job market. College and career technical education programs prepare students with basic skills necessary for success in the workplace, including the teaching of relevant academic coursework (contextual learning) and offering career pathways programs that help students explore various careers and interests while progressing through school.

No issue represents a greater challenge for the state than the development of high wage paying career opportunities for Californians. The convergence of several major global and national trends is creating a historic opportunity to reshape the future of education in workforce preparation and economic development. Increasingly complex and rapidly changing work environments demand that students develop both a significant academic knowledge base and skills to use the knowledge effectively. College and Career Pathways Programs

accomplish these goals by giving students the best possible education while exposing them to real world business environments.

SUPPORT

Coachella Valley Economic Partnership